

Introduced by Senator Padilla
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fong)

February 19, 2010

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1440, as introduced, Padilla. California Community Colleges: student transfer.

Existing law establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments include the California State University, the campuses of which are administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, authorizes the community colleges to grant associate in arts and associate in science degrees. The act also requires the regents, the trustees, and the board of governors to have as a fundamental policy the maintenance of a healthy and expanded program to increase the number of transfer students from community colleges.

This bill would enact the Community College Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation Act, which would authorize a community college to grant an associate degree in the student's field

of study, that is designated as being “for transfer,” to a student who completes 60 transferable semester units or 27 quarter units, as specified, and meets the minimum requirements for transfer to a public university or alternative path to transfer program. The bill would prohibit a community college from imposing any requirements, in addition to these requirements, for the granting of an associate degree with the “for transfer” designation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education
4 in 1960, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university
5 has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.

6 (b) Successful progression from lower division coursework to
7 degree completion is a basic principle of California higher
8 education and is critical to the future of the state’s economy.

9 (c) Currently, the coursework necessary to transfer to a campus
10 of the California State University or the University of California
11 differs from the coursework needed to earn an associate degree.
12 As a result, many transfer students leave the community college
13 system having completed transfer requirements, but are unable to
14 participate in community college graduation ceremonies, do not
15 have a degree to show for their work, and are ineligible for some
16 awards and scholarships because they did not fulfill current
17 requirements for an associate degree.

18 (d) Today, one in every four jobs requires an associate degree
19 or higher. In the near future, one in every three jobs will require
20 an associate degree or higher.

21 (e) The community college system allows the state to address
22 the serious shortage of educated workers.

23 (f) To meet workforce demands in a cost-effective way,
24 incentivizing students to earn an associate degree while preparing
25 for transfer to a four-year college or university, and recognizing
26 that they have completed a transfer preparation course pattern,
27 provides students encouragement and support to complete their
28 overall educational pursuits.

1 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) is added
2 to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education
3 Code, to read:

4
5 Article 3. Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer
6 Preparation
7

8 66745. (a) This article shall be known, and may be cited, as
9 the Community College Associate Degree and Recognition of
10 Student Transfer Preparation Act.

11 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever possible, a
12 community college shall consider the requirements for transfer as
13 it develops associate degree requirements and encourages students
14 to take courses that simultaneously meet both of the requirements
15 of Section 66746.

16 66746. A community college may grant an associate degree,
17 in the student's field of study, on which is designated that it is "for
18 transfer," to a student who meets both of the following
19 requirements:

20 (a) Completes a minimum of 60 transferable semester units or
21 90 quarter units, 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of which
22 shall comprise coursework in a major or an area of emphasis, as
23 determined by the college.

24 (b) Meets the minimum requirements for transfer in an approved
25 transfer core curriculum program, approved transfer agreement
26 program, or dual admission program, implemented pursuant to
27 Chapter 9.2 (commencing with Section 66720) of Part 40 of
28 Division 5 of Title 3 or meets the requirements of an alternative
29 path to transfer program, including, but not limited to, the
30 Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum or the
31 California State University General Education Breadth
32 Requirements.

33 66747. If a community college provides a degree with the "for
34 transfer" designation as provided for in Section 66746, the college
35 shall not impose any requirements in addition to the requirements
36 of Section 66746, including any local college or district
37 requirements.

38 66748. (a) A degree granted pursuant to this article shall reflect
39 the completion of lower division general education requirements.

- 1 (b) The granting of a degree pursuant to this article does not
- 2 guarantee admission to any institution.

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